

**Miami University
Oxford, Ohio**

**"Increasing Expectations for
Academic Effort"**

The 1994 *Involvement in Learning* report identified three critical conditions of excellence in undergraduate education: student involvement, assessment and feedback, and high expectations. While involvement and assessment have since received considerable attention from the postsecondary community, little attention has been paid to increasing expectations of student effort. This project aims to develop better ways of measuring levels of expectations for student effort and to identify campus practices that support high expectations. The project is a collaborative effort involving six Midwestern campuses that mirror in part the diversity of American higher education.

Improving Campus Climates for Learning

FIPSE welcomes proposals to improve campus climates for learning by creating an environment that is safe, welcoming, and conducive to academic growth for all students.

Some obstacles to learning have little to do with skills or motivation, and much to do with civility and respect for others. Racial and cultural minorities, for example, may feel alienated from the majority student culture, even when not experiencing overt forms of prejudice. Many women continue to experience the chilly climates documented by FIPSE grantees over a decade ago. On some campuses, subcultures such as fraternities may themselves have an adverse effect on the academic life of students.

Another disturbing trend affecting environments for learning is the increase of crimes and violence on many campuses. FIPSE is particularly interested in projects to implement educational programs for students and faculty, and projects for administrators that utilize model administrative procedures and practices for dealing with these issues.

FIPSE welcomes proposals to address campus climate issues in creative ways. Applicants should be explicit about the behavioral changes they seek, how those changes will be evaluated, and how they will positively affect retention and other learning outcomes.